



# Hepatitis C Taskforce Minutes

April 2, 2014

3 p.m.

- I. Call to order
- II. Attendance

Kim Morreale McAullife  
Dr. Oluwatoyin (Falusi) Adeyemi  
Dr. Steven Flamm  
Dr. Janak Koirala (So. IL Med. School)  
Rich Zimmerman (DPH)-Proxy  
Cynthia Russell (IL Pharm. Assn.)  
Kathy Ritger (CDPH)  
Hong Liu (Midwest Asian Health Assn.)  
Mike Jones (HFS)  
Rep. Michael McAuliffe  
Senator Munoz  
Rep. Jefferson  
Craig Conover (DPH)  
Harry Sawyer (VA)  
Glendean Sisk (DHS)

- III. Approval of the Minutes
  - a. Morreale McAullife motions, Mr. Jones 2nd
- IV. Election vice- chairman
  - a. Morreale McAullife nominates Munoz

- b. Zimmerman Seconds
  - c. All are in favor
- V. Patient Advocate Story-Cindy Russell
- VI. Overview of Hepatitis C-Dr. Flamm
  - a. Hepatitis affects people from all walks of life
  - b. Hepatitis C is a blood born not spread by casual contact
  - c. Blood was not screened for Hepatitis C until the early 1990s and most people do not know when they contracted it
  - d. Many people have Hepatitis C for 20-40 years before they become sick
  - e. Doctors see patients with this disease and think it is not a large problem because they are not sick
  - f. Hepatitis C is the leading cause of Liver Cancer
  - g. A liver transplant costs an estimated \$300,000
  - h. There have been different types of treatment for Hepatitis C. Interferon and ribavirin have side effects and there cure rates are about 40 percent when taken properly.
  - i. Three years ago there was advancement in Medicine creating protease inhibitors which is a yearlong treatment with a cure rate of 75 percent.
  - j. The new oral medication approved this year is a 3 month treatment with no side effects, oral medication and a 95 percent cure rate. These can wipe out the disease and will save money in the long run.
  - k. Zimmerman Question: Can general practitioners prescribe the new drug
    - i. Dr. Flamm: Yes but they will need education on the medication
- VII. Open discussion on:
  - a. Access to Screenings
    - i. Private health insurance is covering screenings
  - b. Access to Care
    - i. We have been waiting on the affordable care act for coverage for some patients
    - ii. Education Component is needed
    - iii. Targeted education with patient oriented education and health care providers
  - c. Treatment Options
    - i. Russell-the new medication is \$84,000 per 12 week treatment
  - d. Discussion on treatment needs in Illinois
  - e. Treatment Coverage
  - f. Testimony on Private Insurance Coverage
  - g. Testimony on Medicaid Coverage
  - h. Testimony on the Impact of the Affordable Care Act and treatment
- VIII. Data
  - a. What is available and what needs to be documented
    - i. Data is needed on cost to society if untreated

- ii. Race and ethnicity is not reported, only age and sex
- iii. About 30 percent are missing home address
- iv. Specific Illinois Data is needed
- v. Rural vs urban data is needed
- vi. Mr. Jones-A Hep C registry might be helpful

IX. Other business

- a. Advocacy Day is May 14<sup>th</sup> at the capitol

X. Adjournment